



CLARKES XJS WORLD

1975-1991 XJS Buyers Guide

01435 863800

www.clarkesjaguar.com



**Long Barn Motor Museum, Lewes Road, Cross In Hand, East Sussex,
TN21 0TP**

1975-1991 XJS Buyers Guide



Exterior

- 1) Check the condition of the hood especially around the back window for stretch marks and thinning. Rubbers should be the correct shape and not deformed letting water in.
- 2) Take a torch, crawl on you hands and knees and look at all the vulnerable places on the underside seatbelt mounts, jacking points, rear radius arms and bushes, is the diff wet and leaking fluid? Check the front sub frame and cross member, very expensive and not a good idea to buy a car like this. We always jack vehicles and remove wheels to inspect properly.
- 3) Look at the scuttle panels either side below the window screen for bubbling. These are sometimes repaired to a bad standard. The window screen will need removing to ensure best repair possible.
- 4) A general look around the whole body is essential. Check the bumper corners for scuffs, what condition are the chromes in? Look over the vehicle for any dents in doors and boot area.
- 5) Front and rear lights are becoming increasingly hard to find and they are costly so check these for chips and cracks. Also check the windscreen for any chips or de-laminating
- 6) The condition of the wheels around the rim and centres are worth checking.
- 7) What condition and make are the tyres? P6000 Jaguar recommended and right for the vehicle other cheaper makes may show the vehicle may have not been cared for as well as it should. Wear on the inner edge may point to tracking being out or wheel alignment.
- 8) Are the mirrors loose? The springs inside rust and the mirrors become floppy while driving.
- 9) Check the bumper chromes, are there signs of tarnishing? These are unavailable from Jaguar and quality second hand ones are hard to find

1975-1991 XJS Coupe Buyers Guide

Interior



- 1) Has the interior been conalised badly? Check the condition of the driver's seat.
- 2) Important! Lift the front carpets and feel if they are wet or damp and inspect the floor pan is it brown and stained or in worst cases starting to rust.
- 3) Do all the buttons work and does everything operate correctly i.e. Cigar lighter, hood switches, window switches?
- 4) Try the air conditioning system, is there an audible click? with the bonnet open can you see the end of the compressor (clutch) spinning?
- 5) Are there any warning lights on the dash? Does the oil pressure gauge sit true and not fluctuate with the engine running?
- 6) What condition is the hood lining? Is it sagging in places?
- 7) When the hood goes down do both rear windows drop and does the rear window catch the back of the rear seats?(A common fault that is costly to repair due to the hood needing repair and the seats removing to re trim.)
- 8) Do all the switch surrounds in the centre wood sit flush? What condition is the rest of the wood in the car?
- 9) When using the stereo does the radio work correctly? Does the Ariel fully extend? Does the CD stacker in the boot work?
- 10) Has the car been smoked in are there marks on the door pillar, dos the headlining look poor above the driver and does the car smell?

1975-1991 XJS Buyers Guide



Under the Bonnet

- 1) Inspect both inner wings down both sides. Is there any corrosion near the front around the headlight bowls/where chassis sticker is? Check around places where Items are mounted. i.e. screen wash bottle
- 2) When the engine starts up is there a slight knock/slap (If a Straight 6 it is usually the timing chain)
- 3) If a V12 check the condition of the cap leads plugs if accessible. Check for leaks at the back of the engine near the bulk head oil switches leak as well as the cam over gaskets. Does it run smoothly on all 12 cylinders? Its amazing how many people don't realise the car is misfiring.
- 4) Listen for exhaust blows from around the manifold. May require rings or exhaust boxes.
- 5) Check the colour of the oil for obvious symptoms, smell the gearbox fluid for burning check the anti freeze colour etc.
- 6) Have a good look at the radiator especially the bottom left hand side and lying on the floor with a torch through the front. Radiators need changing on average about every 9 years so many cars need them, they are expensive and can cause untold problems with over heating.
- 7) Make sure the air conditioning system is clicking in and working.

1975-1991 XJS Buyers Guide



On the Road

- 1) Listen for the rear end. Is it noisy and wining? drive the vehicle with the hood up as well as down if it is a convertible to remove road noise.
- 2) Does the engine kick down through the gears and change with out slipping or clunks? Does the sport mode button work?
- 3) Do the brakes pull one way more than another? The calipers are prone to sticking and it is advisable to replace. Do the brakes wobble under braking? If so the discs are warped and require replacing. When stationary check the handbrake works correctly.
- 4) Listen for excessive bumps and knocks over lumps. One of the nicest things about an XJS is the smooth ride and bushes often need replacing on shocks, mounts, wishbones and ball joints.

Service History

- 1) Ensure that the history and miles tally up to MOTs
- 2) Look through the service book and see if any major services have been missed.
- 3) Have a look at recent bills / invoices to see what works were carried out or may have been advised
- 4) Ensure there are two sets of keys and they both work. Often cases are broken or remotes don't work. An expensive replacement from a main agent is normally needed
- 5) Make sure all the owners manuals are in good condition and present.
- 6) It is nice to see a full Jaguar toolkit in the boot and while there it's worth checking the condition of the spare wheel